



Australian Go Association

President

Raphael Shin

email: President@AustralianGo.asn.au

PO Box 149 Woody Point, Queensland 4019

Australian Go Association Annual General Meeting 2015

Minutes of the meeting

Location

The meeting opened at 1.20pm, Saturday 5th December at Saint Leo's College. University of Queensland. St Lucia, Brisbane.

Attendance

A list of attendees is attached.

Apologies:

Matthew Crossman; Bill Leveritt; Eugene Lee.

Meeting Officials

The meeting was chaired by Horatio Davis; Minutes by David Mitchell

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed. Proposed by Barry Jay, Seconded by Neville Smythe - passed unanimously.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Reports

The president's report was delivered by Raphael Shin. A motion to accept the report was proposed by David Mitchell, Seconded by Horatio Davis - passed unanimously.

The Vice President's report was delivered by Neville Smythe (attached). A motion to accept the report was proposed by Robin Garner, Seconded by David Boffinger - passed unanimously.

Neville proposed a vote of thanks to Erli Qui for organising Australia's entry to the 2nd World Team Tournament in Guang Zhou, China. The team consists of Zheng Hong 9p, Yiming Guo 7d and Shuping Cai 7 dan. David Mitchell seconded the proposal which was passed unanimously.

The secretary's report was delivered by David Mitchell (attached). A motion to accept the report was proposed by Robin Garner, Seconded by Neville Smythe - passed unanimously.

The treasure's report was delivered by Horatio Davis (attached). A motion to accept the report was proposed by Neville Smythe, Seconded by Robin Garner - passed unanimously.

Treasurer proposed the meeting authorise the treasurer to change the signatures for the association's ANZ Bank account 013-481 4938 00806 to the current secretary, treasurer and vice-president with one to sign, online access and at least one debit card, and do all things necessary or convenient to that purpose. The motion was seconded by David Mitchell and passed unopposed.



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David Boffinger (and others) observed that our cash reserves were high and the association should seek to leverage that resource for the aims of the association.

The meeting thanked the office bearers and committee members for their time, commitment and efforts over the previous year.

Election of office bearers for 2015

President: David Mitchell proposed Raphael Shin continue as president – Raphael accepted nomination. The proposal was seconded by Horatio Davis and with no other candidates Raphael was elected unopposed.

Vice President: Horatio Davis proposed Neville Smythe as vice president – Neville accepted nomination. The proposal was seconded and with no other candidates Raphael was elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Neville Smythe proposed Horatio Davis for the role as treasurer. Horatio accepted the nomination which was seconded by Robin Garner and with no other candidates Horatio was elected unopposed.

Secretary: Robin Garner proposed David Mitchell as secretary. David accepted the proposal which was seconded by Neville Smythe and with no other candidates David was elected unopposed.

Other committee members:

The meeting elected unopposed the following people as ordinary members of the committee:

Matthew Crossman, Yoko Usami, Erli Qiu, Billy Sun and Robin Garner

Location of 2016 National Championships

Melbourne is the next location in the cycle - David Boffinger proposed Melbourne organize the 2016 National Championships, Seconded by Robin Garner. Billy Sun accepted the proposal on behalf of the Melbourne clubs. The motion was passed unanimously.

A.O.B.

Rating system proposal

The AGA Rating sub-committee proposed a review of the existing rating system and software. David Mitchell explained that the current system (Agatha) was supported by just one person which needs to be addressed. In addition, the ratings around the country vary considerably, particularly for kyu players. The proposal attached is for a 2 year review of all aspects of the rating system by a working group.

The working group will be chaired by Neville Smythe with David Boffinger, Robin, Matthew Crossman and others at Neville's discretion.

David Boffinger moved the proposal, seconded by Barry Jay - the motion was passed unanimously.



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Travel scholarship proposal

Barry Jay proposed that the AGA establishes a process to manage The AGA Travel Scholarship which will be funded by the AGA until a sponsorship can be found. The guidelines are as follows:

1. The maximum value of a scholarship is \$300
2. The maximum number of scholarships is 4
3. Applicants must have won a first-class AGA tournament in the 12 months prior to AGANC 2016
4. Applicants must not reside in the city hosting the AGANC 2016 tournament.

There was debate on the proposal which questioned the details of who will benefit, how it will be managed and other associated concerns. There were some strong opinions from the floor which related to the benefit to the association and who would benefit from the proposal.

David Boffinger proposed that the AGA commit to spending \$1,200 on travel scholarships for 2016 with the detailed method, target recipients and other details to be prepared by a working group by February 2016. The working group proposal will be put to the full committee for consideration at the AGA Committee meeting in February. Details of the approved proposal will be circulated to all AGA members and clubs. This was proposed was seconded by Barry Jay and passed by a majority.

David Mitchell proposed that Robin Garner (as an AGA committee member) chair the working group and work with Barry Jay and others at Robin's discretion to deliver a comprehensive solution in the time-frame set by the AGM. The motion was passed unopposed.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2:25pm.



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List of members at the meeting

Alexander Hanysz
Amy Song
Chen Wei Jiang
David Bofinger
David Mitchell
Edwin Clarke
Erli Qiu
Ge Zhou
Horatio Davis
Kaile Su
Mark Bell
Markus Pache
Neville Smythe
Ravi Newman-Pache
Wei Zhou
Yanis Newman-Pache
Yoko Usami
Aaron Wang
Andrew Gray
Barry Jay
Billy Sun
David Schofield
Davis Kim
Dominic Chan
Dongjie Wu
James Kim
Jason Mackay-Dwyer
Kevin Jiang
Mark Brough
Peter Hexel
Peter Hong
Raphael Shin
Rene Hexel
Robin Garner
Simon Lyu
Watson Zhou

Appendix 1 - Vice President's report
Neville Smythe

IGF Director's Report 2015

This was landmark year for the International Go Federation. For the first time the World Amateur Go Championship was held outside the 3 core countries Japan China and Korea. Other countries, perhaps in Europe or the US, might now be thinking of hosting the event; they will have a hard act to follow however, as Thailand put on an excellently organised (and clearly very expensive) 36th WAGC. Raphael Shin was Australia's representative, Ju Qiang Chen played for New Zealand. Korea, represented by Changhun Kim, took first place, followed by China and Chinese Taipei.

The 10th Korean Prime Minister's Cup was rescheduled from its usual time to November 22 to 27 because of the outbreak in 'flu in Korea. Fortunately our representative Joseph Choi was able to reschedule his flight to Seoul. Sorry Kiwis, at the time of writing I don't have the name of the New Zealand player.

The 26th World Pair Go Championship is being held in Tokyo at the same time as the Australian Championship, ie December 5 and 6. It is New Zealand's turn to compete this year, represented by Emma Reynolds 6k and Edwin Phease 4d. Australia, New Zealand and Madagascar are put in a single zone (!) so in theory each country gets to play in Tokyo only once every three years. In practice Madagascar can not often put together a team, so Oz/NZ can be called on at very short notice to field a team; this happened last year when NZ was first approached, and then Australia was able to send a team (Amy Song and Wei Xu). We should be prepared for sudden requests for this.

The IGF organizes two other prestige team events, in association with SportAccord and the World Mind Sports Association. The SportAccord World Mind Games had been held in China in December for the last few years, though no host could be found in 2015; it is essentially by invitation for the very strongest players, including professionals, so Australia and New Zealand don't really get a look-in. It is expected this event will be held every second year, starting from 2016. The next World Mind Sports Games is probably going to be held in Macau in October 2016; teams from Australia and New Zealand should be readied!

There are other IGF related events which we can participate in, for example the Pandanet internet competition which form the preliminary rounds of the World Student Oza, the finals of which are held in Japan.

The IGF continues to push for recognition by the IOC as an Olympic sport. Membership of the SportAccord and WADA (which requires drug testing at the WAGC) have been preliminary steps. Recognition by National Olympic Committees would be a great help; some NOC's already do recognize Go – for example the Netherlands. Others (Australia in particular) remain implacably opposed to non-physical sports be recognized.

Neville Smythe

Director, International Go Federation

Appendix 2 - Treasurer's report

Horatio Davis

Australian Go Association Treasurer's Report – FY/CY 2015

As of the quarterly statement on 30th September 2015, the association had \$7795.53 in the bank after \$30 of transactions in that quarter (membership deposits). Since that time, Neville Smythe has deposited \$10 in memberships, and I have transferred the balance of \$238.42 from the PayPal account, leaving a cash balance of \$8043.95 as of 3 December. By comparison, at the 2014 AGM the bank balance stood at \$6600 (due to \$1000 of lumpy accounts payable from 2012, otherwise \$7600), \$7444.52 at the 2012 AGM (otherwise \$6444), \$6000 at the 2010 AGM, \$5030.32 at the 2009 AGM, under \$5000 in 2008, under \$4000 in 2007, under \$2000 in 2006.

Clubs and state federations that have paid bulk dues to the AGA this year on behalf of their members: Queensland (\$200), Victoria (\$200 for 2015 + \$200 for 2014), Sydney Baduk (\$200), Sydney City (\$200): totalling \$1000.

The PayPal account has seen moderate activity this year, with sixteen \$10 individual memberships paid in and two \$50 sustaining memberships. This has cost us \$12.24 in fees to PayPal, and net of transfers to the bank account, left us a balance of \$9.34. By comparison, 2014 saw \$280 of individual and sustaining memberships paid in via PayPal, \$150 in 2013, \$310 in 2012, \$180 in 2011, \$430 in 2010, \$460 in 2009.

An outstanding issue from last year remains changing over the signatures for the bank account, and moving to one-to-sign to allow for online banking and an actual transaction card. This year's attempt needed paperwork from three signatories in three cities, none of whom were in the same city as the Footscray Mall branch where the account is. The ANZ's internal mail system proved not to be up to the challenge. The second attempt is going to happen while all three of us are physically here.

Accounts payable as soon as we change over the signatures on the bank account: \$115.00 for renewal of the Association post office box and \$180.00 for the Dreamhost account (mailing lists, web hosting at \$10.95 USD/month), \$600 to the Queensland Go Society as sponsorship of the KABA delegation's visit to these Nationals, \$243.69 to Neville Smythe for ¥22000 of dues paid to the International Go Federation. Net of these, the bank account should have a balance of approximately \$6905.26 by 1 January 2015.

Budget – we anticipate core operating expenses to remain steady for 2016, thus:

\$115 post office box
\$180 internet hosting
\$250 ~~tribute to the Capital~~ Australian dues to the International Go Federation
\$55 sundries (domain renewal, stationery)

We do not anticipate any capex, so a total of \$600 expenditure. We are running at circa \$300 of individual memberships, \$800 (4 x \$200) of bulk memberships from clubs, so a total of \$1100 guesstimated income, for a net result of \$500 for CY2016.

This budget does not provide for strategic growth investments such as youth promotion or subsidy for interstate tournament participation. **If we want those, other income is needed.**

Motions

1. That the treasurer's report, budget, and financial statement be accepted for 2015.
2. That the general meeting authorise the treasurer to change the signatures for the association's ANZ Bank account 013-481 4938 00806 to the current secretary, treasurer and vice-president with one to sign, online access and at least one debit card, and do all things necessary or convenient to that purpose.
3. That this general meeting establish a working group under a volunteer chair to seek sponsorship for the promotion of go in Australia, to report at the next general meeting.

Appendix 3 - Secretary's report

David Mitchell



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November 2015

AGA Secretary's Report for 2015

By David Mitchell

Before I go into detail on this year's activities I would like to extend thanks on behalf of all Australian Go players to both the Korean Amateur Baduk Association (KABA) and Raphael Shin for their continued friendship and support. KABA have paid for two top professionals to attend this tournament (The AGA National Championship); they did a similar thing for the first Australian Go Congress and the Korean Ambassador's Cup earlier this year. This friendship and support helps our members learn and improve – a priceless gift. Raphael Shin and his Hoju Dong-a Newspaper have sponsored this tournament to ensure the financial pressure on the organisers is kept to a minimum. Both KABA and Raphael have made significant monetary contributions and I am sure all AGA members and Go players around Australia are impressed and grateful for their support.

2015 has been a busy year for the AGA committee, there have been 4 committee meetings and various projects undertaken (detailed below). In summary, the AGA achievements are:

- The establishment of a first class annual Online Go Tournament
- The establishment of AGA Pair Go rules & the promotion of this form of the game
- The establishment of a Youth sub-committee who have been actively promoting Go to young people around Australia.
- A review and proposal to revise the AGA rating system.
- The creation of a Facebook group to supplement and support the existing web site and e-mail communications channels.

While a lot has been done a lot more needs to be done and the committee is in desperate need of people to take on some of the workload either as part of the committee or on an ad-hoc basis. Despite the dearth of resources a lot has been achieved.

In chronological order the main events were:

The first AGA Go Congress was held in January and organised by Sang-Dae Hahn. There was significant sponsorship money and other resources from the Hoju Dong-a Newspaper & Raphael Shin. The tournament attracted just under 50 players predominantly from overseas. Raphael & Sang-Dae Hahn are organizing another Congress for January 2016 in Sydney. This event is a great platform for Go in Australia and again Raphael Shin and his newspaper are putting in a lot of money and effort to make the event a success.

The first committee meeting of the year was in February. In order to bring people together AGA Committee meetings have been held using a (free) teleconference facility. This helps stimulate debate, reduce misunderstandings and get projects underway a lot faster. It has proven very successful during the year and is likely to continue to be used into the future.



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The key outcome of the February meeting was to prioritise projects (suggested by AGA committee members) and select one for completion during the year. The list was as follows:

- I) To edit and publish a year book of AGA Go activities and events - the aim is to have this happen every year.
- II) To provide a platform for AGA clubs to engage with 'sister city' clubs around the world. (Platform means contacting the national organizations and matching overseas clubs with interested AGA clubs)
- III) To encourage and publicise Go tour groups. (The suggestion is that more players would join such groups if they knew opportunities existed, this will help make such ventures more successful and encourage the adventurous Go players).
- IV) To provide supporting material and marketing methods for clubs to publicise their tournaments/events in local and regional news outlets - a sort of potted marketing strategy that can be built upon by the clubs.
- V) To collect news clippings and other information from around the world that can be used by clubs to spread Go in the community and in schools. Also, to suggest different strategies for getting Go into schools and collecting feedback from initiatives.
- VI) To encourage inter-club competitions - either face to face or over the Internet.
- VII) To give opportunities and encourage younger players.
- VIII) To formulate a ratings process, issue AGA certificates and publish a list of players along with player details (including a photo) as the EGF do.
- IX) Online tournaments. Having at least one first-class Australian tournament reachable to players outside the capital cities would be good.
- X) Establish an Australian Pairs Go competition with the winning pair to represent Australia in any international Pair Go events.

After due consideration the committee decided that an online tournament (recognised by the AGA for representative points) was top of the list; Horatio Davis volunteered to organise the event. The first Online Go Tournament was held in September and was a great success with thanks to Horatio (for organizing and managing the event) and An Younggil (for his role as referee that involved solving some interesting disputes). The AGA extends its sincere thanks to both.

In March, I (David Mitchell) established contact with Kirrawee High School and presented a 2 hour lesson and activities to 50 year 9 students. I also contacted the British Go Association and obtained permission to use their youth teaching materials. The Committee appointed me chair of the Youth sub-committee and I presented the Youth strategy document at the next committee meeting. The Youth sub-committee have extended supported fledgling clubs in Canberra (organised by Des Blackwell) and in Hurstville, Sydney (organised by William Qian). Billy Sun (in Melbourne) has been running a successful group for some time so our materials etc. are of little use, but we are ready if needed. The current targets in Sydney is to 'get into' Sydney Grammar School and from there use the leverage to spread Go into other prestigious schools. In addition, we continue to target Sydney High Schools through their language or cultural subjects.



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In April, Yoko Usami was appointed chair of the AGA Pairs Go sub-committee. During the year Yoko established the rules for Australian Pair Go including the organization of a Pairs Go event at this tournament. Yoko is the liaison officer between the AGA and all overseas pair-Go organizations and represents the AGA on all pair Go matters. Out thanks go to Yoko for taking on and doing a great job in this role.

The second committee meeting was held in May. The issue of AGA rankings first arose at this meeting and has been the subject of much debate since. An Younggil was appointed Chair of the rating committee assisted by me (David Mitchell) and Neville Smythe. Various proposals have been discussed and the November committee meeting agreed to put the proposal to the AGM in December.

With the increased workload it became clear that more people were needed to undertake roles, for this reason there will be a proposal to add two ordinary members to the committee at the 2016 AGM.

It is hoped 2016 committee will find people prepared to take on key roles such as publicity and social media, be part of the rating working group and other important jobs. There is no shortage of good ideas and suggestions – just workers!

No new projects were undertaken at the August and November meetings – the focus in both was the delivery of as many current projects as possible. Overall this has been a very successful year and I would like to extend my thanks to all active committee members for their work.

David Mitchell,
Secretary,
AGA

Appendix 4 - Rating committee proposal

An Younggil & David Mitchell

AGA Rating Committee Proposal to the AGM

Tuesday, 16 November 2015

Preamble

The Rating Committee has reviewed current practices over the past 6 months. The lack of control of AGA member ratings in Australia means little or no consistency in ratings across the country and the Rating Committee believe this situation should be addressed and a national rating system put in place.

AGM Proposal

The Rating Committee seeks formal approval for the following strategy and changes to the AGA rating system - in summary the main changes are:

1. That the AGA adopt a staged approach to changing the system (details below)
2. In the first stage a working group will be appointed to look at Agatha and any possible replacement strategies
3. The first stage will last 2 years in which time the existing systems and process (including Agatha the existing system for tournament draws and ratings) will be used for rating AGA dan players
4. That the National Coach be able to change individual ratings but only if agreed to by the AGA executive committee members and subsequently reviewed the next full committee meeting. Tournament directors can still exercise discretion for a single event.
5. That player ratings (from the Agatha system) are be published on the AGA web site and updated twice yearly.
6. That 7 Dan will be a 'flagship' rating and is only allocated to people who have the required number of points and have won at least 2 national or state championships.
7. That player's promoted to new rating during the year be recognized at the AGM.

Approach

The full committee of the AGA recognise that player ratings are close to the hearts of most players. In order to address the concerns raise by the full committee meeting the Rating Committee propose to adopt a multi-stage approach. The short term approach is to use what we have to remedy the worst issues; the longer term solution is to have an open, transparent & maintainable ranking system that at least aligns player rankings across Australia and preferably with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The long term approach may have multiple stages but that will be determined by a special working group (see below).

Short term

The Rating Committee proposes to utilize the existing Agatha software (which has been modified by Neville Smythe in the past couple of months) and associated admin processes. The results of the software change have been reviewed by the Rating Committee and they do not appear to contain any major issues.

The Rating Committee still believes that the intervention of the National Coach is necessary and agrees this should be in a minimal and controlled manner. The committee proposes that the National Coach be able to change ratings but only if agreed to by the Rating Committee and AGA executive committee members. All such decisions will be reviewed and approved at the following full AGA committee meeting.

The Rating Committee propose to use the Agatha system rating list which will be published on the AGA web site – the use of these rating will be the basis for competing in all AGA recognized tournaments, subject to the discretion of the tournament director. The Rating Committee will not allocate ratings to players that do not participate in AGA events.

The Rating Committee proposes that the rank of 7 dan should become a flagship rank. It will only be allocated to people who have achieved the required number of ranking points and have won 2 or more national or state championships.

The Rating Committee proposes to issue ranking certificates to members on request only. Members requesting a certificate will be charged a small amount to cover the cost of printing and distribution.

The Rating Committee proposes that players promoted to new ranks during the year be recognized at the AGM held at the National Championships at the end of the year.

Long term

The committee recognize that Agatha may not be the long term platform but it has been used in Australia for a long time and recent modifications by Neville Smythe have addressed some of the more obvious issue. A secondary problem with Agatha is that just one person supports & maintains the software – this is not a good situation.

The Rating Committee proposes the creation of a working group to look at Agatha and any possible replacement strategies. Any solution must address current functional concerns, have a broad-based support and development team (at least 3 people); to be affordable, preferably with a zero cost to the AGA; be developed in a mainstream language; be able to operate on Window, Linux and Mac computers and be free for anybody to use.

The working group will be chaired by Neville Smythe and will consist of people prepared to work on a solution. The Rating Committee expect the working group to prepare a strategy paper for the March 2016 Rating Committee meeting and report to the Rating Committee at least every 3 months thereafter to report on progress and any changes to roadmap, approach etc.

End of report

Report prepared by David Mitchell

Rating Committee members

An Younggil
David Mitchell
Neville Smythe